

internships



Internships at Hope

What is an Internship?

Internships at Hope are supervised work experiences related to a student's major or vocational interest area for which the student earns academic credit.

What distinguishes an internship from a short-term job or volunteer work? Intentional learning takes place in the form of a self-directed learning contract through the student's enrollment in an academic internship course at Hope or an approved program outside of West Michigan.

A Hope College Internship Involves...

- Three hours onsite per week over the course of at least one semester or summer for every credit of internship enrolled, along with time invested in course meetings and writing. (3 work hours = 1 internship credit)
- An onsite supervisor with expertise in the area consistent with the department from whom the credit is given, and with whom regularly scheduled supervision meetings occur.
- A professor who oversees the internship, making contact with

the onsite supervisor and student, assigning and evaluating readings and written assignments, and meeting or communicating on a regular basis with the student to stimulate reflections about one's vocation and calling.

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Why is an Internship Important?

A recent survey by NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers) revealed that 70% of employers currently offer internships; 87% of new graduates with jobs have internship or internship-related experience on their résumés; and the average employer offers approximately 2/3 of their interns full-time positions upon graduation.

How do I Find an Internship?

Career Services can help

Although the internship search and application process is your responsibility, the Office of Career Services is available to assist you. Each internship search process will be different based on your major and internship course requirements.

The best way to plan for an internship is to take initiative and start your search early. Although it is never too late to begin a search, the best opportunities go quickly. Make an appointment with a Career Services' staff member to create an internship planning timeline.

When researching internship options there are two types of internships you can pursue. Career Services' staff members can help with both types:

- existing opportunities listed online at jobstop.hope.edu and other appropriate websites
- internships developed through personal connections, networking strategies, and cold calls

What Should I Do Once I Secure an Internship?

1. Contact the appropriate faculty member for your internship course.
2. Complete the required paperwork for your internship course, provided by your faculty instructor
3. Email Career Services at careers@hope.edu and share the good news! With your permission, we may feature your internship experience in one of our office publications.

Can I Get Paid for an Internship?

- Internships can be either paid or unpaid. In some career interest areas, internships are generally offered for volunteer experience, as a standard rule for that particular field or industry. Legally, internships at for profit organizations should be paid.
- The quality of the internship experience is NOT measured by the compensation provided.



What Types of Internships are Available to Hope Students?

The Office of Career Services

The Office of Career Services is available to help you understand your options for an internship course. Career Services staff members can also help you research, apply, and prepare (financing options, housing, etc.) for an internship experience that best fits you and the market availability in your area(s) of interest.

- West Michigan internships during the school year and summer
- At home during the summer
- In another metropolitan market such as Chicago, New York or an international location

Departmental Programs

A number of academic departments coordinate internship placements within the department, or require an internship or other experiential learning component as part of the curriculum. Contact your department in order to talk to the faculty member who oversees internship credit, or view a list of faculty internship contacts at www.hope.edu/academic/intern.

Off-Campus Approved Programs

These programs, which combine study and internship experience, are fulfilled off campus in various locations outside of the state of Michigan. Students can apply to participate in the program and interview for possible internships on site. A list of these programs is available at www.hope.edu/academic/intern

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